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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190117
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 MCT-01 SS-15 DHA-02
SY-05 ACDA-07 CPR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
/088 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR, JR:LG
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
IO/UNP:LSHEA (DRAFT)
L/SFP:CFIELDS (DRAFT)
M/CT:JKARKASHIAN (DRAFT)
S/S-S:MRS. DENHAM
----------113683 121157Z /46
R 111846Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PDIP, ASEC, UN, YO, US

SUBJECT: REPLY TO YUGOSLAV PROTEST NOTES

REF: A) USUN 1912; B) USUN 2192; C) BELGRADE 4540

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING NOTE TO YUGOSLAV
UN MISSION.

BEGIN TEXT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 190117

(SALUTATION) AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE YUGOSLAV
MISSION'S NOTE DATED JUNE 14, 1977, CONCERNING THE
REGRETTABLE ARMED INTRUSION INTO THE MISSION THAT
OCCURRED THAT DAY AND THE MISSION'S NOTE OF JULY 8, 1977
CONCERNING THE GRANTING OF BAIL TO THE DEFENDANTS. THE
UNITED STATES MISSION FULLY SHARES THE REPUGNANCE WHICH
THE YUGOSLAV MISSION FEELS FOR THIS CRIME AND THOSE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. THE UNITED STATES MISSION DEEPLY
REGRETS THE SERIOUS WOUNDING OF MR. RADOMIR MEDIC AND
HOLDS EVERY GOOD WISH FOR HIS SPEEDY AND COMPLETE
RECOVERY.

2. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS ITS
RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE YUGOSLAV MISSION AND TOWARD

MR. MEDIC FOR DAMAGES INCURRED. THE UNITED STATES IS
DETERMINED THAT YUGOSLAV PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY WILL BE
PROTECTED FROM UNLAWFUL ATTACKS AND THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE
FOR SUCH ATTACKS WILL BE PUNISHED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF
THE LAW. THIS ATTITUDE IS WELL KNOWN TO THE YUGOSLAV
MISSION, AND THE UNITED STATES THEREFORE REJECTS AS
UNACCEPTABLE THE YUGOSLAV MISSION'S ASSERTION THAT THE
UNITED STATES IS LENIENT TOWARD ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM.
THE YUGOSLAV MISSION SHOULD NOTE IN THIS REGARD THE
SENTENCES RECENTLY HANDED DOWN TO THOSE CROATIAN TERRORISTS
CONVICTED OF HIJACKING AN AMERICAN AIRLINER LAST FALL.

3. THE YUGOSLAV MISSION'S NOTE OF JULY 8 REPEATEDLY
ASSERTS THAT THE DEFENDANTS IN THE JUNE 14 ATTACK ON
THE MISSION HAVE BEEN SET FREE ON BAIL. THE UNITED
STATES FINDS THIS ASSERTION INCOMPREHENSIBLE, BECAUSE
IN FACT THE DEFENDANTS, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, HAVE
REMAINED IN CUSTODY SINCE THEIR CAPTURE AND REMAIN SO
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TO THIS DAY. THE FACT THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF RELEASE
ON BAIL HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM IS FULLY CONSONANT
WITH THE AMERICAN LAW AND JUDICIAL PRACTICE. THE GRANT
OF BAIL OR EVEN RELEASE ON BAIL, IN THE CASE OF THE ONE
DEFENDANT WHO HAS POSTED THE NECESSARY SUM, WILL IN NO
WAY AFFECT THE TRIAL OR THE DECISIONS OF THE COURTS.

4. THE UNITED STATES MISSION ALSO WISHES TO POINT OUT
THAT TERRORISM IS A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM, AND MANY COUNTRIES
AND THEIR CITIZENS HAVE BEEN ITS VICTIMS. INDEED, SOME
AMERICANS ABROAD, INCLUDING AMERICAN AMBASSADORS, HAVE
BEEN BRUTUALLY MURDERED BY TERRORISTS. GIVEN ITS INTER-
NATIONAL SCOPE, IT IS MANIFEST THAT TERRORISM CAN ONLY BE
EFFECTIVELY COUNTERED IF ALL COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO
TAKE STEPS TO BRING TERRORISTS UNDER CONTROL REGARDLESS
OF THEIR POLITICS. IN THIS REGARD, THE UNITED STATES
MISSION NOTES THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS AT THE UNITED
NATIONS MADE PROPOSALS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS WHICH
YUGOSLAVIA HAS NOT SUPPORTED. THE UNITED STATES WOULD
APPRECIATE GREATER COOPERATION AND OBJECTIVITY FROM
YUGOSLAVIA IN THIS RESPECT.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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5. IN THE LONG RUN IT IS ONLY THROUGH DETERMINED EFFORT AND COOPERATION THAT WE CAN MEET THE WORLDWIDE PROBLEM OF TERRORISM. FOR ITS PART, THE UNITED STATES MISSION REPEATS ITS ASSURANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO COMBAT ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND ALL FORMS OF TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE). END TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC NOTES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, CROATS, TERRORISTS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE190117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMSEYMOUR, JR:LG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770290-1296
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770870/aaaachsd.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a04b105c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 1912, 77 USUN NEW YORK 2192, 77 BELGRADE 4540
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1629144
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLY TO YUGOSLAV PROTEST NOTES
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PDIP, ASEC, YO, US, UN
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a04b105c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009